

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
HONG KONG BUREAU

MHK-5003
1 April 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Hong Kong Bureau--March 1985

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The death of Soviet President Chernenko and quick succession by Gorbachev figured in some of the bureau's work during the month. Flashworthy items were filed from the AFP Hong Kong service and subsequent Chinese reaction from the press. An AFP report several days later that Soviet Defense Minister Sokolov had died was handled with equal dispatch. But AFP's source for this story turned out to be less credible than in the case of Chernenko. Sokolov subsequently surfaced and the death rumors ceased.

2. Beijing television expanded its evening news coverage by adding a 10-minute late evening update at 1400 GMT. Programming time was also extended with documentary or feature items now being carried following the 1400 newscast. The brief late evening cast usually repeats the major items from the main 1100 news program.

3. A daily recording of the 1100 GMT television newscast is now being sent to MOD via Federal Express. The tapes are picked up before noon by courier and on a plane out of Hong Kong by mid-afternoon. Receipt time in Headquarters is 2 days after shipment from here. The tapes are being shipped in response to a MOD request, levied on several bureaus, for daily video recordings. The bureau has taken advantage of the quick shipment to Headquarters by including in each package three copies of RENMIN RIBAO for AG. These papers were previously sent via international mail, taking about a week for delivery.

B. Lateral Services

The bureau responded to a number of requests from the Consulate Economic Section during the month. They were especially interested in a couple of items that appeared in the 6 March JINGJI RIBAO and wanted BFN's in order to alert the Department. We also received several inquiries and requests in connection with the 1984

statistics, the full text of which came from Okinawa. Continuing interest in the bureau file from the Foreign Commercial Service (FCS), located on the 17th floor of the St. John's Building, has prompted us to look into the possibility of servicing them with a pony line. This is still under consideration and would depend on their willingness to arrange for their own printer. It would also require some programming in the Extel equipment to select out only economic-related items of interest to FCS. This appears to be technically possible and we will pursue if FCS wants to follow through on the idea. Items of interest to FCS are now being retrieved from the chief editor's daily review copy and being hand-delivered.

C. Technical

The bureau's emergency generator exhaust system was modified during the month to permit us to run and test the generator during normal work hours. The original installation resulted in exhaust fumes from the generator being pulled into the building air conditioning system. The modification takes the exhaust through an extended duct which releases the fumes above and away from the AC intake. Before the modification, maintenance and testing had to be done on a Sunday when the main AC was not operating.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. A replacement has been found for the bureau's part-time U.S. secretary, [redacted] who will be departing this summer. She is the wife of [redacted] who presently works at a 20-hours per week job [redacted]. As our opening offers more hours and a higher grade, there is no obstacle to her coming to work for us. I will be coordinating with Admin on the arrangements.

2. Senior commo operator [redacted]

[redacted] doing fine.

B. Building and Grounds

1. Office rent will increase 20% effective this coming September. This will make our annual charge for both floors \$113,000. The Consulate GSO tried to negotiate the price downward but building management refused to budge. The per square foot charge of US\$10.80 is still relatively good as space costs go in the Central area of Hong Kong. Some buildings are charging and receiving \$14-15 per square foot, though a current excess of unoccupied office space is forcing those charges downward somewhat. The new rental rate will be effective for 2 years. St. John's management has indicated that there may also be an increase in monthly air conditioning charges, but no final decision has been made. The GSO was told that the higher after-hours AC rates which FBIS pays for evenings and weekends will likely not be increased.

2. The bureau had a surprise inspection by a Headquarters

health and safety team on March 22d. Earlier messages had indicated that the team would only be stopping over in Hong Kong, not visiting any offices. Though we had only 4 hours notice, all went well and no problems surfaced. The team determined that our fire extinguishers should be replaced by a better type now available in the States. They will ship these and some other personal protection devices for use in office and home. While here the team also reconfirmed that our microwave antenna is not giving off any reflected radiation. We had checked this in January shortly after the antenna was moved, but it was good to have the team verify our original finding.

III. VISITS

STAT A. [REDACTED], during a familiarization visit to Far East bureaus, 3-6 March.

STAT B. [REDACTED], during a personal visit to Hong Kong, 7 March.

STAT C. [REDACTED] former AG Soviet analyst, stopping over on a trip from Beijing to Bangkok, 17 March.

STAT D. [REDACTED] former bureau associate editor, during a visit to the Far East, 21 March.

STAT E. [REDACTED] Okinawa Bureau editor, and [REDACTED] Okinawa Bureau Russian monitor, while on private visits to Hong Kong, 22 March.

STAT F. [REDACTED] health and safety inspectors from Washington, 22 March.

IV. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

STAT A. The Consulate's Foreign National Employee Association held their annual "Fat Choy" party at the Hilton Hotel on 9 March. More than 500 employees and guests attended, including [REDACTED] from FBIS. Among the FBIS guests was [REDACTED] former chief press monitor until his retirement in 1979. [REDACTED] now resides in Washington state. Monitor [REDACTED] distinguished himself by placing third in a beer drinking contest held during the evening festivities.

STAT B. [REDACTED] has been nominated as new vice president of

STAT [REDACTED]
STAT [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Bureau Chief

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report
cc: Original and 3 - Hqs
C/Bangkok
C/Okinawa
C/Seoul

HONG KONG BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 1,102,618
 TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 180,158
 TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: 1,485

BROAD- PRESS PUBLI-
 CASTS AGENCIES CATIONS

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:

(MINUTES OR ISSUES PER WEEK)

MIN. MIN. ISSUES
 5,320 18,140 269

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:

(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

CHINA		
BEIJING INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN		
THAILOO	440	
BEIJING TELEVISION SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	2,530	
BEIJING CITY SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	1,620	
CHANGSHA HUNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	14,810	
CHENGDU SICHUAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	9,300	
GUANGZHOU GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	6,870	
GUIYANG GUIZHOU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	8,450	
HAIKOU HAINAN ISLAND SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	7,910	
KUNMING YUNNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	6,930	
LANZHOU GANSU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	12,500	
LIJIAO HIZANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	8,470	
NANNING GUANGXI REGIONAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	8,970	
SHIJIAZHANG HEBEI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	9,140	
TAIYUAN SHANXI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	4,260	
URUMQI KINJIANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	11,810	
WUHAN HUBEI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	11,650	
XIAN SHANXI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	7,810	
XINING QINGHAI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	8,000	
ZHENGZHOU HENAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN		
MANDARIN	13,920	
BEIJING KINWU HONG KONG SERVICE IN		
CHINESE	7,800	
BEIJING ZHONGGUO KINWEN SHE IN		
CHINESE	26,860	
BEIJING BAN YUE TAN IN		
CHINESE		15,890
BEIJING DABAO WENXUE IN		
CHINESE		0
BEIJING BEIJING REVIEW IN		
ENGLISH		1,000
BEIJING BEIJING RIBAO IN		
CHINESE		7,610
BEIJING BEIJING WANDAO IN		
CHINESE		0
BEIJING CHINA DAILY IN		
ENGLISH		37,730
BEIJING GONGREN RIBAO IN		
CHINESE		7,170
BEIJING GUANGMING RIBAO IN		
CHINESE		61,460
BEIJING GUODI WENTI YANJIU IN		
CHINESE		45,150
BEIJING HONGKONG IN		
CHINESE		82,410
BEIJING HUANGDIU IN		
CHINESE		0
BEIJING JIEFANGJUN WENYI IN		
CHINESE		0
BEIJING JINGJI QUANLI IN		
CHINESE		32,420
BEIJING JINGJI RIBAO IN		
CHINESE		32,320
BEIJING JINGJIXUE ZHOUKAN IN		
CHINESE		250
BEIJING JINGJI YANJIU IN		
CHINESE		33,740
BEIJING LIXIAOWANG IN		
CHINESE		11,980
BEIJING LISHI YANJIU IN		
CHINESE		0
BEIJING RENMIN RIBAO IN		
CHINESE		1,130
BEIJING RENMIN RIBAO IN		
CHINESE		118,540
BEIJING SHIDIE JINGJI IN		
CHINESE		10,520
BEIJING SHIDIE LISHI IN		
CHINESE		0
BEIJING SHIDIE ZHISHI IN		
CHINESE		10,550
BEIJING WENJUE PINGLUN IN		
CHINESE		0
BEIJING WENYI BAO IN		
CHINESE		1,620
BEIJING WENZHAI BAO IN		
CHINESE		0
BEIJING XINWEN ZHANXIAN IN		
CHINESE		0
BEIJING ZHENXUE YANJIU IN		
CHINESE		0
BEIJING ZHONGGUO FAZHI BAO IN		
CHINESE		5,210
BEIJING ZHONGGUO QINGNIAN BAO IN		
CHINESE		1,660
CHENGDU SICHUAN RIBAO IN		
CHINESE		0
CHONGQING CHONGQING RIBAO IN		
CHINESE		8,370
FUZHOU ZHONGGUO JINGJI WENTI IN		
CHINESE		0
GUANGZHOU GUANGZHOU RIBAO IN		
CHINESE		6,540
GUANGZHOU KAIFANG IN		
CHINESE		6,650
GUANGZHOU NANFANG RIBAO IN		
CHINESE		4,780

GUANGZHOU HAIKOU RIBAO IN	0
CHINESE	
HEFEI ANHUI RIBAO IN	0
CHINESE	
KUNMING YUNNAN RIBAO IN	0
CHINESE	
KUNMING YUNNAN SIXIANG ZHANKIAN IN	0
CHINESE	
LANZHOU LANZHOU WANBAO IN	0
CHINESE	
SHANGHAI SHIJIE JINGJI DAOBAO IN	9,260
CHINESE	
SHIJIAZHONG HEBEI RIBAO IN	21,940
CHINESE	
TAIYUAN SHANXI RIBAO IN	100
CHINESE	
WUHAN CHANGJIANG RIBAO IN	7,190
CHINESE	
WUHAN HUBEI RIBAO IN	0
CHINESE	
XIAN SHANXI RIBAO IN	5,100
CHINESE	
YINCHUAN NINGXIA RIBAO IN	14,830
CHINESE	

HONG KONG	
HONG KONG ASIA TELEVISION LTD IN	380
ENGLISH	
HONG KONG TELEVISION BROADCAST LIMITED IN	850
ENGLISH	
HONG KONG COMMERCIAL RADIO IN	480
ENGLISH	
HONG KONG DOMESTIC SERVICE IN	790
ENGLISH	
HONG KONG RFP IN	83,390
ENGLISH	
HONG KONG ASIaweek IN	0
ENGLISH	
HONG KONG CHANWANG IN	400
CHINESE	
HONG KONG CHENG MING IN	5,400
CHINESE	
HONG KONG CHUOSHIN WEN IN	460
CHINESE	
HONG KONG CHING PAO IN	0
CHINESE	
HONG KONG FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW IN	3,300
ENGLISH	
HONG KONG HONG KONG STANDARD IN	6,370
ENGLISH	
HONG KONG HSIN WAN PAO IN	6,450
CHINESE	
HONG KONG KUANG CHIAO CHING IN	3,730
CHINESE	
HONG KONG MING PAO IN	3,620
CHINESE	
HONG KONG PAI HSING IN	5,920
CHINESE	
HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST IN	22,060
ENGLISH	
HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN	2,520
CHINESE	
HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN	4,190
ENGLISH	
HONG KONG WEN WEI PO IN	17,550
CHINESE	

NEW ZEALAND	
WELLINGTON OVERSEAS SERVICE IN	14,160
ENGLISH	

PHILIPPINES	
MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN	10,700
ENGLISH	
MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN	250
TAGALOG	
MANILA RADIO VERITAS IN	640
TAGALOG	
DAGUPAN CITY DZDL RADIO IN	740
TAGALOG	
QUEZON CITY MAHARLIKA BROADCASTING SYSTEM IN	21,290
ENGLISH	
QUEZON CITY MAHARLIKA BROADCASTING SYSTEM IN	0
TAGALOG	
MANILA BULLETIN TODAY IN	9,560
ENGLISH	
MANILA BUSINESS DAY IN	34,730
ENGLISH	
MANILA METRO MANILA TIMES IN	5,970
ENGLISH	
MANILA PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS IN	2,650
ENGLISH	
MANILA PHILIPPINES SUNDAY EXPRESS IN	0
ENGLISH	
MANILA TIMES JOURNAL IN	11,870
ENGLISH	
DAVAO CITY PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM IN	1,960
ENGLISH	
DAVAO CITY SAN PEDRO EXPRESS IN	0
ENGLISH	
DAVAO CITY THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR IN	1,110
ENGLISH	
QUEZON CITY ANG PAMPAGANG MALAYA IN	20,470
ENGLISH	
QUEZON CITY VERITAS IN	8,880
ENGLISH	